GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3230
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008
MODERNISATION OF METHODOLOGY FOR MINING
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is unable to tap the high magnitude mineral resources due to outdated methodologies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to renovate and modernize the methodology, technology and equipments, for exploration of minerals in the country;

(d) whether the Government has any policy to attract entrepreneurs from abroad for exploration and extractions of minerals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) & (b) : There are many areas in the country where deep seated mineralization cannot be located and exploited because of technological limitations of the survey and exploring agencies. These areas include:

(i) Areas lying deep below thick `Deccan Trap` rock cover in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa.

(ii) Areas with thick Alluvium cover forming Indo-Gangetic Plains in West Bengal and

(iii) Areas covered by desert in Rajasthan.

(c), (d) & (e) : The National Mineral Policy 2008 envisages that the Geological Survey of India will be the principal agency for geological mapping and regional mineral resource assessment, while the private sector will be the main source of investment in reconnaissance and exploration. Efforts will be made to ensure that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically in the entire geologically conducive mineral bearing area of the country using state-of-the-art techniques. The policy also envisages foreign participation in exploration and mining for high value and scarce minerals and foreign equity investment in joint venture with Indian Companies for exploration and mining.